GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2340
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
UNDER UTILISATION OF FUNDS UNDER SAFETY RELATED ACTIVITIES
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not giving due attention and importance to coal mining and safety;

(b) whether there had been less plan outlay of coal during 2001-02 than 2000-01;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether there has been under utilization of funds to the extent of 45% in safety in coal mines related activities as pointed out by the Standing Committee on Energy in its Report No. 17 of 2001 in para 2.186;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Committee has also pointed out the need to strengthen the DGMS and to update the mining maps and for safety audit;

(g) if so, the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee to bring in desired safety measures in coal mines;

(h) whether the said Committee has dwelt at length the matters concerning coal and to bring improvement therein;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI)

(a): Coal mining and safety are being given due attention and importance.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Main reason for less outlay in 2001-02 is due to cancellation of Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSRP) loan.

(d): Utilisation of total safety budget (both capital and revenue) has been over 82% both in 1999-00 and 2000-01 in CIL.However, utilisation of capital budget has been 47.6% in 1999-00 and 57.9% in 2000-01.

(e): The utilisation of the safety budget under the head 'capital' is sometimes delayed as many safety items have to be procured from abroad through global tender as such items are not manufactured indigenously. Moreover, many safety items have to have DGMS approval and conform to BIS specifications.Sometimes DGMS grants provisionalapproval for certain safety items for some period. Such procurement action through global tender is time taking and sometimes the DGMS approval lapses and the procurement action gets delayed. As such utilization of the capital budget for safety & rescue suffers from the above constraints.

(f) & (g): Yes , Sir. As recommended by the Committee, mining maps are being updated in the mines of CILand its subsidiaries as per the statute. Safety audit is also being conducted by CIL and its subsidiaries.It has been decided to conduct safety audits at least once in two years in all subsidiary companies of CIL.Regarding strengthening of DGMS as recommended by the Committee, it was informed to the committee that it may not be possible for Ministry of Coal & Minesto provide financial assistance to DGMSor to spare/off-load officers from Internal Safety Organisation of CILfor placement under DGMS.A proposal for strengthening DGMShas been sent by DGMS to Ministry of Labour and itis under consideration. Proposal for external audit is already in pipeline by making amendments in statute.

(h) to (j): The Standing Committee expressed concern that the steep decline in Central plan outlay on account of cancellation of CSRP loan would result in time over-run for 4 CIL projects meant for capacity building. The Committee was not convinced that resource gap for the 15 projects involving replacement of equipment under CSRP loancould be bridged through internal resources of CIL.The committee desired that the Government should review the cancellation of CSRP loan so that the projects,which were to be financed through this loan, could be completed in stipulated time.

Out of 24 projects of CIL covered under CSRP loan,9 were for capacity addition and 15 were for replacement of equipment. Out of the 9 projects for capacity building, 5 have been completed and the status of the remaining 4 are as follows:-

Parej East OCP:-All equipment under CSRP loan provided . The project has since been completed. Delay was mainly due to R&R problem. Dudhichua OCP:- All activities were pending due to approval of RCE.The RCE has been approved and the project will be completed as scheduled in the RCE. Lakhanpur OCP:- Completed.

Bharatpur OCP :- Completed.

The replacement of equipment in the 15 projects will also be completed in phased manner from the internal resources of CIL.